

## CLAIMS

- 1 1. An apparatus comprising:
- 2 a passive call block assistant configured to send a false ringing indication to a caller.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
- 2 a call manager configured to identify caller identification information.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the call manager is configured to match the caller
- 2 identification information with an entry in a caller database.
- 1 4. A method comprising:
- 2 receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;
- 3 sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification information matches
- 4 an entry in a caller database.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
- 2 accepting the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller
- 3 database.
- 1 6. The method of claim 4, further comprising:
- 2 prompting a subscriber to block the call when the caller identification information does not
- 3 match the entry in the caller database.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
- 2 accepting the call when the subscriber does not block the call after being prompted.
- 1 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
- 2 sending the false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber blocks the call after being
- 3 prompted.

- 1 9. The method of claim 4, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.
- 1 10. The method of claim 4, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation  
2 Protocol 180 Ringing.
- 1 11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
2 responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.
- 1 12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
2 receiving a SIP Cancel.
- 1 13. A method comprising:  
2 receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;  
3 accepting the call when the caller identification information matches an entry in a caller  
4 database.
- 1 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
2 sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification information does not  
3 match the entry in the caller database.
- 1 15. The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
2 prompting a subscriber to accept the call when the caller identification information does not  
3 match the entry in the caller database.
- 1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
2 sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber does not accept the call after  
3 being prompted.
- 1 17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
2 accepting the call when the subscriber accepts the call after being prompted.
- 1 18. The method of claim 13, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

- 1 19. The method of claim 14, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation  
2 Protocol 180 Ringing.
- 1 20. The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
2 responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.
- 1 21. The method of claim 18, further comprising:  
2 receiving a SIP Cancel.
- 1 22. A computer-readable medium encoded with data and instructions, the data and  
2 instructions causing an apparatus executing the instructions to:  
3 match caller identification information with an entry in a caller database;  
4 send a false ringing indication to a caller when the caller identification information matches the  
5 entry in the caller database.
- 1 23. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, the instructions further comprising:  
2 accepting the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry in the caller  
3 database.
- 1 24. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, the instructions further comprising:  
2 prompting a subscriber to block the call when the caller identification information does not  
3 match the entry in the caller database.
- 1 25. The computer-readable medium of claim 24, the instructions further comprising:  
2 accepting the call when the subscriber does not block the call after being prompted.
- 1 26. The computer-readable medium of claim 24, the instructions further comprising:  
2 sending the false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber blocks the call after being  
3 prompted.

- 1 27. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the call is a Session Initiation  
2 Protocol (SIP) Invite.
- 1 28. The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the false ringing indication is a  
2 Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.
- 1 29. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, the instructions further comprising:  
2 responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.
- 1 30. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, the instructions further comprising:  
2 receiving a SIP Cancel.
- 1 31. A computer-readable medium encoded with data and instructions, the data and  
2 instructions causing an apparatus executing the instructions to:  
3 match caller identification information with an entry in a caller database;  
4 accept a call when the caller identification information matches the entry in the caller database.
- 1 32. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, the instructions further comprising:  
2 sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification information does not  
3 match the entry in the caller database.
- 1 33. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, the instructions further comprising:  
2 prompting a subscriber to accept the call when the caller identification information does not  
3 match the entry in the caller database.
- 1 34. The computer-readable medium of claim 33, the instructions further comprising:  
2 sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber does not accept the call after  
3 being prompted.
- 1 35. The computer-readable medium of claim 33, the instructions further comprising:  
2 accepting the call when the subscriber accepts the call after being prompted.

- 1 36. The computer-readable medium of claim 31, wherein the call is a Session Initiation  
2 Protocol (SIP) Invite.
- 1 37. The computer-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the false ringing indication is a  
2 Session Initiation Protocol 180 Ringing.
- 1 38. The computer-readable medium of claim 36, the instructions further comprising:  
2 responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.
- 1 39. The computer-readable medium of claim 36, the instructions further comprising:  
2 receiving a SIP Cancel.
- 1 40. An apparatus comprising:  
2 means for receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;  
3 means for sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification  
4 information matches an entry in a caller database.
- 1 41. The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:  
2 means for accepting the call when the caller identification information does not match the entry  
3 in the caller database.
- 1 42. The apparatus of claim 40, further comprising:  
2 means for prompting a subscriber to block the call when the caller identification information  
3 does not match the entry in the caller database.
- 1 43. The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:  
2 means for accepting the call when the subscriber does not block the call after being prompted.
- 1 44. The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:  
2 means for sending the false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber blocks the call  
3 after being prompted.

- 1 45. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.
- 1 46. The apparatus of claim 40, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation  
2 Protocol 180 Ringing.
- 1 47. The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:  
2 means for responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.
- 1 48. The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising:  
2 means for receiving a SIP Cancel.
- 1 49. An apparatus comprising:  
2 means for receiving a call from a caller, the call including caller identification information;  
3 means for accepting the call when the caller identification information matches an entry in a  
4 caller database.
- 1 50. The apparatus of claim 49, further comprising:  
2 means for sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the caller identification  
3 information does not match the entry in the caller database.
- 1 51. The apparatus of claim 49, further comprising:  
2 means for prompting a subscriber to accept the call when the caller identification information  
3 does not match the entry in the caller database.
- 1 52. The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising:  
2 means for sending a false ringing indication to the caller when the subscriber does not accept the  
3 call after being prompted.
- 1 53. The apparatus of claim 51, further comprising:  
2 means for accepting the call when the subscriber accepts the call after being prompted.
- 1 54. The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the call is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) Invite.

- 1 55. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the false ringing indication is a Session Initiation  
2 Protocol 180 Ringing.
- 1 56. The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising:  
2 means for responding to the SIP Invite with a SIP 100 Trying.
- 1 57. The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising:  
2 means for receiving a SIP Cancel.
- 1 58. An apparatus comprising:  
2 a communication interface for receiving a call from a caller;  
3 a processor configured to send a false ringing indication to the caller.